

# HOW AND WHY JESUS SAVED PAUL

## Introduction

- 1) The story of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus is a fascinating and informative study
  - a) Acts 9:1-19; 22:3-21; 26:9-18
  - b) A zealous and determined enemy of Christianity is converted completely to the cause he once was determined to destroy
- 2) **1 Timothy 1:12-17** – Paul reflects on how and why Jesus saved him – a thankful man! (v. 12a)
- 3) In context, he notes that the “glorious gospel of the blessed God” had been committed to his trust (v. 11) – he was commissioned to preach and defend the gospel (Eph. 3:8; Phil. 1:17)

## **I) Jesus Strengthened Paul (v. 12)**

- A) Prior to his salvation Paul was dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1)
- B) Jesus “enabled” [strengthened, empowered] him (cp. Phil. 4:13)
- C) Because of his honest heart, he was counted “faithful” for the “ministry” [service]
  - 1) There is no prior sinfulness great enough that Christ cannot enable us to be faithful in His service

## **II) Paul Obtained Mercy (v. 13)**

- A) A former blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent man
  - 1) “Insolent” – prideful, violently arrogant, injurious, delights in hurting others
    - a) Consider Paul’s description of his former persecution (Acts 26:11)
    - b) “Compelled them to blaspheme” – try to destroy their spirit and hope!
- B) But Paul obtained mercy, particularly because he did it ignorantly in unbelief
  - 1) Ignorance and unbelief invites the mercy of God who desires all to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4)

## **III) Exceedingly Abundant Grace (v. 14)**

- A) God is full of grace and mercy (Eph. 2:4-8) – it is super-plentiful for sinners!
  - 1) Made possible faith and love in Paul’s life through Christ

## **IV) Christ Saved the Chief of Sinners (v. 15)**

- A) Absolutely true that Jesus came into the world to save sinners (Lk. 1:68-69; 2:11, 30; 5:31-32; 19:10)
- B) Paul understood the extreme depth of sin into which he had sunk and the horrible things he had done (see point II, A above); made him even more humble and thankful!

## **V) Paul as a Pattern of Salvation (v. 16)**

- A) Paul obtained mercy that he might be a pattern of salvation
  - 1) If Jesus in His longsuffering and mercy desired to save, and did save Saul of Tarsus, any sinner can be saved by His mercy!
- B) This is why the Holy Spirit recorded his conversion, so that we may see God’s mercy and grace in saving sinners, even the worst of them!

## Conclusion

**Every sinner saved is to the honor and glory of God (v. 17).** Is your life one that brings honor and glory to God? Let God’s grace and forgiveness save you from your sins today!